



U.S. Department of Justice

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CITIZEN OF CANADA GUILTY OF CREDIT CARD FRAUD

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Steve Ricciardi, the Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Division of the United States Secret Service, Holly Fraumeni, the Resident Agent in Charge of the Manchester, New Hampshire Office of the Secret Service, announced that Edward Kardos, a 19-year-old citizen of Canada, has pleaded guilty to Access Device Fraud.

During the hearing, a federal prosecutor informed United States District Court Judge Joseph DiClerico that Kardos purchased four \$10.00 VISA gift cards in December 2005. Kardos then used the internet to purchase credit card information he was not entitled to receive. According to the prosecutor, the credit card information was then installed on the magnetic strips of the gift cards, which created the false impression that purchases made with the cards would be charged to VISA credit card accounts. The prosecutor also stated that on January 27, 2006, Kardos used the fraudulent gift cards to purchase items valued at more than \$3,600 from several stores in New Hampshire.

When he is sentenced on June 30, 2006, Kardos could receive a prison sentence of up to 10 years and be fined up to \$250,000. Because he is a resident of Canada, he can also be deported from the United States.

After Kardos pleaded guilty, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "Credit card fraud is a serious problem throughout the world. It causes financial and personal harm to many law-abiding citizens and will not be tolerated. Any adult, no matter what his or her age, who engages in the conduct, will be prosecuted."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Kinsella.